

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: MORNING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 2

NO. 5

WIRES

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE MET TODAY WITH EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMI
FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO GET A MIDEAST PEACE
CONFERENCE RECONVENED IN GENEVA THIS FALL."

OTHER POINTS:

-- US OFFICIALS DESCRIBED TALKS AS "VERY WIDE-RANGING,"
SAID SADAT PRESENTED THE WHOLE RANGE OF EGYPTIAN IDEAS.

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-- VANCE TO MEET SADAT AGAIN TODAY, HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE.

-- BACKGROUND ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

REUTERS -- ROY GUTMAN FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "US SECSTATE VANCE AND EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMI TODAY

BEGAN DISCUSSING IN DETAIL QUESTIONS RELATING TO RECON-
VENED GENEVA MIDEAST PEACE TALKS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- MEETING SCHEDULED TO LAST 4 HOURS. MORNING MEETINGS
WERE LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS BY ARABS AND ISRAELIS
ON MAIN OBSTACLES TO PEACE TALKS.

-- NO DETAILS HAVE EMERGED OF ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS --
SUBSTANTIVE AS WELL AS PROCEDURAL -- CARRIED BY VANCE.
SENIOR OFFICIAL ON VANCE PLANE INDICATED MAIN AIM OF
MISSION WAS TO RESOLVE PRINCIPAL PROCEDURAL QUESTION,
REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS.

AP -- BARRY SCHWEID FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, FRESH FROM A LONG SESSION WITH
PRESIDENT SADAT, MET WITH OTHER EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS TODAY
TO SEEK AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO REPRESENT THE
PALESTINIANS AT MIDEAST PEACE TALKS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE REPORTEDLY WAS HANDED AN OUTLINE OF EGYPTIAN
NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS, INCLUDING COMPROMISE ON PALESTINIAN
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PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA.

-- ISRAEL REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE PLO, WHICH IT REGARDS AS
TERRORIST ORGANIZATION; ARABS OFFICALLY REGARD IT AS SOLE
SPOKESMAN FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. NEVERTHELESS, EGYPT IS
BELIEVED TO BE "SUGGESTING ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF REPRESENTING
PALESTINIAN INTERESTS AT GENEVA."

-- IN BEIRUT, PLO WARNED ARAB LEADERS AGAINST ACCEPTING
US-SPONSORED SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PLO PARTICIPATION, CALLED
FOR HIGH-LEVEL PAN-ARAB CONFERENCE BEFORE ANY COMMITMENTS
MADE TO VANCE.

NEWSPAPERS

NY TIMES -- BERNIE GWERTZMAN FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE AND PRESIDENT SADAT OPENED DISCUS-
SIONS TONIGHT ON OVERCOMING THE REMAINING OBSTACLES TO
CONVENING A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA WITH THE

EGYPTIAN LEADER EXPRESSING NEW CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE

OUTCOME."

OTHER POINTS:

-- REPORTERS ON PLANE TOLD SADAT HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED SOME ALTERNATIVES ON PLO REPRESENTATION WITH US OFFICIALS. AMONG POSSIBILITIES THOUGHT TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE: HANDLING OF PLO INTERESTS BY ARAB STATES AS A GROUP OR BY HUSSEIN; PLO PRESENCE AT GENEVA AS OBSERVER, AS AT UN; ENLARGEMENT OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO INCLUDE PALESTINIANS FRIENDLY TO PLO, BUT NOT HIGH-RANKING PLO MEMBERS.

-- TONIGHT'S SESSION IN ALEXANDRIA, FIRST THERE SINCE KISSINGER SHUTTLE IN AUGUST 1975, WAS LARGELY AN OVERVIEW
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OF SITUATION.

WASH POST -- DON OBERDORFER FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, DECLARING THAT HE AIMS TO SPEED UP PROGRESS TOWARD A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, OPENED A NEW ROUND OF MIDEAST DIPLOMACY HERE TONIGHT IN TALKS WITH THE MOST FLEXIBLE ARAB LEADER."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SADAT HAS SUGGESTED SEVERAL WAYS THAT A PALESTINIAN PRESENCE AT GENEVA MIGHT BE MADE LESS OFFENSIVE TO ISRAEL.

-- US OFFICIALS IMPLIED VANCE HOPES TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WITH SADAT, AND OBTAIN ASSENT OF OTHER ARAB LEADERS AS HE TRAVELS. COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WOULD THEN BE PRESENTED TO BEGIN, WITH HOPE HE WOULD SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY.

-- SADAT EVINCED GREAT OPTIMISM; VANCE'S ATTITUDE WAS MORE GUARDED.

CSM -- DAN SOUTHERLAND FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "FOR US SECSTATE VANCE, THIS IS THE EASY PART. RARELY HAVE THE US AND EGYPT SEEMED CLOSER IN THEIR IDEAS ON HOW TO REACH A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- EGYPT IS SHOWING "REAL FLEXIBILITY" ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AND ON OTHER ISSUES, US OFFICIALS SAY.
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-- SADAT SEEMS TO HOPE TO GIVE US SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WITH WHICH TO PRESSURE ISRAELIS. A US OFFICIAL SAID SADAT "IS CREEPING UP TO AS CATEGORICAL A COMMITMENT AS HE CAN MAKE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE KIND OF PEACE THE ISRAELIS SAY THEY WANT."

-- SADAT HAS BEEN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR VANCE VISIT; 2 WEEKS AGO HE SPOKE OF NEED TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S LEGAL EXISTENCE. SPEECH WAS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT WAS DIRECTED AT HOME AUDIENCE, NOT FOREIGN ONE.

-- DIFFERENCES PERSIST ON PLO; SADAT WOULD LIKE US TO OPEN DIRECT DIALOGUE, US REFUSES UNTIL PLO AMENDS CHARTER AND RECOGNIZES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST.

-- SADAT SEEMS ALMOST DESPERATE TO GET A PEACE AGREEMENT; BEGIN AND ASSAD WILL NOT BE AS EAGER, AND VANCE WILL FACE MUCH TOUGHER BARGAINING IN SYRIA AND ISRAEL.

-- SECSTATE ALSO LOOKING FOR INDICATIONS OF ANY SOFTENING OF PLO ATTITUDE TOWARDS ISRAEL WHICH MIGHT MAKE US-PLO DIALOGUE POSSIBLE.

WSJ -- BOB KEATLEY FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "AMERICAN CAMPAIGN FOR RENEWED MIDEAST PEACE TALKS RESUMED LAST NIGHT WITH MODEST HOPES AND EVEN LESS OPTIMISM ABOUT QUICK RESULTS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE SAID ALL MIDEAST GOVERNMENTS WANT CONFERENCE. GREAT DIFFERENCES REMAIN, HOWEVER, AND EFFORTS MAY FAIL. BEST VANCE CAN HOPE FOR IS TO NARROW PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCES SO FUTURE TALKS, PROBABLY AT UNGA, CAN FINISH THE
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JOB. SOME AMERICANS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT NEED FOR YET ANOTHER VANCE MIDEAST TRIP.

-- THINGS MAY HAVE WORSENEDED SINCE LAST VANCE TRIP; BIGGEST NEW ELEMENT IS BEGIN GOVERNMENT, WHICH SEEMS ADAMANT ON WEST BANK AND PLO. CURRENT PROCEDURAL WRANGLING MAY THUS PROVE IRRELEVANT IF ISRAELIS REFUSE TO DEAL WITH HOMELAND

ISSUE ON ANY TERMS.

-- VANCE HOPES TO REACH GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ARABS ON PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS, AND BRING THEM TO BEGIN. "ALL THIS REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF A FORCED RETREAT OF CARTER ADMI-

NISTRATION POLICY. A FEW MONTHS AGO, THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF GENEVA TALKS RATHER THAN FORM, ON THE GROUND THAT A FAILED MEETING WOULD BE WORSE THAN NONE AT ALL. NOW THE EMPHASIS IS ON PROCEDURES SO TALKS CAN SOMEHOW OPEN...."

BALT SUN -- HANK TREWHITT FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "WITH AN OVERLAY OF OPTIMISM, THE US AND EGYPT BEGAN NARROWING THEIR DIFFERENCES LAST NIGHT TO OPEN A NEW, POSSIBLY CRITICAL, ROUND OF DIPLOMACY TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDEAST."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SADAT SAID HE WAS "MORE THAN OPTIMISTIC," POSSIBLY BECAUSE HE KNOWS SOMETHING VANCE IS JUST LEARNING -- TWO DAYS AGO HE SAID THERE ARE "ALTERNATIVES" TO PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA.

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-- SADAT EXPECTED TO MAKE PUBLIC HIS IDEAS AT NEWS CONFERENCE; US OFFICIALS ASSUME HE IS READY TO ACCEPT SOME FORM OF INDIRECT REPRESENTATION FOR PLO. "THE PROSPECT IS THAT BY NEXT WEEK MR. VANCE WILL HAVE HAMMERED OUT A COMMON POSITION WITH THE ARAB LEADERS ON THAT ISSUE."

-- VANCE ALSO OFFERING US IDEAS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES; REPORTS PERSIST THAT US WILL PROPOSE CREATION ON WEST BANK OF PALESTINIAN HOMELAND UNDER UN TRUSTEESHIP. WHILE VANCE WOULD LIKE TO REACH AS MUCH AGREEMENT AS POSSIBLE ON SUBSTANCE, PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS MUST BE SETTLED FIRST.

-- VANCE SCHEDULE LEAVES ROOM FOR SOME BACK-AND-FORTH BETWEEN CAPITALS IF NECESSARY.

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